

**CONCEPT-BASED SYSTEM FOR REPRESENTING AND  
PROCESSING MULTIMEDIA OBJECTS WITH ARBITRARY  
CONSTRAINTS**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

Disclosed is a method and apparatus for querying stored multimedia data in a computer system, comprising receiving into an intermediate level a high-level concept from a user describing data to be retrieved, translating, in said intermediate level, said high-level concept into low-level queries by using system pre-defined high-level concepts, transferring said low-level queries to a low level comprising one or more search engines; said one or more search engines performing a query of the stored multimedia information using said low-level queries. A matching algorithm for use with the invention is also disclosed.

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